Establishment of separate Audit Commission

513. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a separate Audit Commission on the line of Comptroller and Auditor General for auditing the nationalised banks; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the public sector banks including nationalised banks and public financial institutions, their accounts are audited by the auditors who are qualified to act as auditors of a company under the companies Act, 1956. These auditors are appointed by the public sector banks/financial institutions with the approval/consultation of the Government. The panels for appointment of these auditors are prepared on the recommendations of a Standing Advisory Committee set up in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Representatives of the Government and Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) are also members of this Committee. The desirability of bringing the public sector banks including nationalised banks and the public financial institutions within the purview of Comptroller and Auditor General of India is being examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India.

Treating Medical expenses as perquisites for income tax purposes

514. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Circular No. 445 of 31st December, 1985 issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes stipulates that reimbursement of medical expenses will be treated as perquisites and will be subject to income tax unless medical treatment is done in recognised public hospitals;

(b) if so, whether in taking this decision the fact of limited number of recognised public hospitals and their accessibility to employees of Public Sector Undertakings was kept in view ; and

(c) whether any steps are contemplated to mitigate their hardships, if so what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(Shri ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Board Circular No. 445 dated 31st December, 1985 lays down that the reimbursement by the employer on medical expenses, such as, operation fees, hospitalisation charges and cost of medicines, tests etc. actually incurred in India by the employee or medical treatment in a "recognised public hospital" will not be treated as perquisites for the purpose on charging income tax, "Recognised Public Hospitals for this purpose means those hospitals which are recognised under Central Government Health Scheme and Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules for the purpose of medical treatment/reimbursement under the said Rules.

Where a public sector undertaking or any other employer considers that any particular hospital should be recognised for this purpose. it can make an application in this regard to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and, if the said hospital is included in the list of

"recognised public hospitals', reimbursement made for treatment in that hospital will not be treated as a perquisite.

Monthly checks on Central Government Expenses

515. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what kind of monthly checks Government propose to control Government expenses;

(b) whether it will help in reducing the expenses and if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) how much expenses have been incurred so far for organising these monthly checks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) : Finance Minister has written to all Ministers suggesting identification of savings in estblishment expenditure so as to absorb the liability on account of fresh D.A. instalments. They have also been requested to draw up a quarterly/monthly Budgets of expenditure and receipts, so as to facilitate monitoring of the over-all Budget Deficit. This exercise should not involve any additional expenditure.

राजस्थान में बन्द पड़ी कपड़ा मिलें

516. **डा. अबरार अहमद खान :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान में कुल कितनी कपड़ा मिलें स्थापित की गई हैं और वर्तमान में उनमें से कितनी मिलें बन्द पड़ी हैं और इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) सरकार उन मिलों को पुन: चालू करने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है और इन मिलों के कब तक चालू होने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा राजस्थान में हथकरघा बुनकरों को क्या सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है और वर्तमान में राजस्थान में हथकरघों की संख्या कितनी है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री, साथ में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री शरद यादव) : (क) 31-3-1990 की स्थिति अनुसार राजस्थान में 24 सूती/मानव निर्मित फाईबर वस्त्र मिलों में से पांच बन्द पड़ी थी। इनमें से 4 मिलें वित्तीय संकट के कारण बन्द थी और एक मिल कामगारों की हड़ताल की वजह से बन्द थी।

(ख) बन्द/रूग्ण वस्त्र मिलों का पुनरुद्धार नौडीय अभिकरण बी आई एफ आर के समक्ष उनकी अर्थ क्षमता के प्रमाणित होने पर निर्भर करता है जिसकी स्थापना सरकार ने इसी उद्देश्य के लिए की है।

(ग) वर्ष 1987-88 की राष्ट्रीय गणना के अनुसार राजस्थान में 33,256 हथकरघा थे। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने विशेष रूप से हथकरघा क्षेत्र में उत्पादन के लिए 22 मदों को आरक्षित किया है। मिल गेट कीमतों पर बुनकरों को यार्न की सप्लाई करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा विकास निगम ने यार्नडिपों स्थापित किए हैं। करघा पूर्व तथा करघा पश्चात प्रोसेसिंग सुविधायें स्थापित करने, आधुनिकीकरण व नवीकरण के लिए सहायता देने तथा करघों की खरीद आदि के लिए, वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए बाजार विकास सहायता योजना, जनता कपड़ा योजना, बचत निधि योजना के जरिए भी बुनकरों को सहायता प्रदान की जा रही है।